

**COUNTY OF MORRIS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

P.O. Box 900  
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Board of County Commissioners

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**MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2022, 5:15 pm via In-Person/Webex Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call To Order and Attendance**

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm. Mr. Chernick introduced and welcomed Ms. Lorena Inestroza as a newly appointed member of the MHASAB. Ms. Inestroza is the Adolescent Assessment and Admission Coordinator at New Pathway in Pine Brook, New Jersey. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

**Board Members:**

Freddie Bicknese, Citizen Representative  
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair  
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair  
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor’s Office  
Lorena Inestroza, New Pathway Counseling  
Robert Peluso, Citizen Representative  
Alton Robinson, Community Recovery Center of Morris County  
Meg Rodriguez, Morris County Prosecutor’s Office  
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor’s Office  
Erica Valvano, Morris County Sherriff’s Office  
Amy Villano, Acenda Integrated Health  
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative

**Board Liaisons:**

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Carmine Deo, MSW, MB., Community Hope

**Others in Attendance:**

Rose Brown, MSW., Mental Health Association  
Alicia Sharma

**Morris County Staff:**

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services  
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services  
Maria Fodali, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance  
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services  
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center  
Roselyn Suarez, Morris County Human Services

**II. Approval of March 10 & April 14, 2022, Minutes**

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Ward made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor, with one abstention and no opposition. Motion passed.

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Ward made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion passed.

**III. Chair Report**

Condolences to Ms. Csengeto and her family for the passing of her husband, Laszlo. Please keep them in your thoughts.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, The Morris County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation for May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Commissioner Selen presented the proclamation to Morris County Mental Health Administrator Ms. Archer and Ms. Garodnick, Vice-Chair of the MHASAB.

Your participation in the Subcommittees you signed up for is imperative. These subcommittees are where the work for this Board gets done. Our Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee only has three members. If anyone is interested in joining, please let Ms. Hess know as soon as possible. Some interesting topics are being discussed.

A video link from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services will be emailed by Ms. Hess, explaining 988, a 3-digit dialing code for crisis and suicide prevention that will be implemented soon. This will be discussed at our next MHASAB meeting.

**IV. State Liaison Report:**

**Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – Ms. Eileen Alexander  
Request for Proposals**

**Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) -Award**

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the creation of the Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) in the following ten (10)

counties: Passaic, Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Union, Salem, Gloucester, Burlington, Somerset, Cape May.

EISS programs provide rapid access to short-term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention services. EISS serves persons 18 years of age or older who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of a mental illness. Services include assessment, psychiatric evaluation, pharmacologic interventions, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, psychoeducation, time-limited case management, referral, and linkage. EISS has routine “after-office” hours (e.g., weekends), accommodates “walk-ins,” and offers quick access to staff with psychiatric prescriber privileges when needed.

**Amount of funding available:**

Total annualized funding for each county is one (1) million from the \$10 Million total funding amount available, subject to State appropriations.

EISS awardees:

- *Catholic Charities-Burlington County*
- *Bridgeway-Union County*
- *Rutgers UBHC-Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*
- *Acenda -Cape May and Gloucester Counties*
- *Health Care Commons Inc. -Salem*
- *St Clare’s -Warren County*
- *CBH Care -Passaic County*
- *MHA Essex and Morris -Sussex County*

**Medicaid Provider Training**

**Useful Tools for a Compliant Medicaid Provider -A presentation for Partial Care Providers**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 1-3 pm**

**Virtual via Zoom Webinar**

**Program Description:** The following state agencies -- the Medicaid Fraud Division (MFD) of the Office of the State Comptroller, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS), and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), both within the Department of Human Services, and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) in the Attorney General’s Office -- work together with New Jersey's Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to identify and recover overpaid funds due to fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program (often referred to as NJ FamilyCare). This session is designed to provide stakeholders, specifically Medicaid partial care providers, a better understanding of best practices to prevent, avoid, and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program.

**Goals of This Presentation – To Help Attendees Understand:**

- *The Medicaid program regulatory oversight structure*
- *The Medicaid regulatory framework and compliance requirements*
- *Medicaid documentation requirements for providers*
- *Third Party Liability (TPL) requirements*
- *Fraud, waste, and abuse obligations of providers (prevention and reporting)*
- *The consequences for non-compliance by providers*

**Speakers:**

Representatives from the Medicaid State government agencies listed above and New Jersey's MCOs - Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, Amerigroup NJ, Horizon NJ Health, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, and Wellcare.

**Registration:**

Registration is required and is limited to 500 participants.

For more information, please email [provider-education@osc.nj.gov](mailto:provider-education@osc.nj.gov).

**Announcement**

This month, Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke received the Partnership Award from Acenda Integrated Health. Below is the YouTube link. It is 30 minutes in length – Assistant Commissioner Mielke's acceptance speech is towards the end <https://youtu.be/Caclk4OtBnE>.

**V. Staff Reports**

**Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Nebesni**

We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, and we will be closing out this year at the end of June.

DMHAS funding applications are due tomorrow, May 13th. One of the twelve Municipal Alliances will not be applying for this additional funding, so some adjustments and recommendations will be made at a future MHASAB meeting.

**Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Suarez**

Narcan kits and educational materials will be available soon. DMHAS is working with Emergent Solutions to develop a portal for entities to register for these materials. Our local law enforcement agencies should be receiving a letter soon regarding this information.

Effective July, the Fee For Service (FFS) rates for Treatment and Enhancement Services will increase in FY 2023.

The Annual Opioid Summit will be held in early September, and the topic will be Harm Reduction. Additional information to follow.

### **Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Archer**

During our last Leadership meeting, the 2023 funding timeline was discussed. We are still developing our priorities which will be voted on at the end of the meeting during the closed session. We expect the timeline to be similar to last year, with the application review in late summer and the complete subgrant agreement executions by the end of 2022. The announcement of 2023 funding availability will be posted in the Daily Record and on the County website.

The Mental Health and Addiction COVID Connect program will provide and expand behavioral health treatments and supports to individuals experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. A series of screening tools will assess the callers' mental health/addiction needs. Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care will provide a referral to a licensed treatment provider throughout the state that offers Telehealth services. To ensure successful service, call 833.223.0011. This information is being circulated again since we are hearing there are extended wait times for face-to-face appointments.

COVID-19 Peer Support Group, hosted by Atlantic Health System, meets Wednesday, 6:00 to 7:00 pm via Zoom Meeting. The group will support people who have had COVID-19 and understand the long road to recovery. For questions regarding this group, please reach out to Ms. Jennifer Carpinteri at 973.579.8573 or email [Jennifer.Carpinteri@atlantichealth.org](mailto:Jennifer.Carpinteri@atlantichealth.org).

Public Stakeholder meetings for our HOME ARP (American Rescue Plan) funding through the Office of Community Development were held to gather ideas from the public on how HOME funds can be used. These HOME Funds are a hybrid between our traditional HOME funds used for new construction and rehabilitation of building for affordable housing and our Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) used for rapid re-housing, shelter for the homeless, etc. The HOME ARP funding is through the Office of Community Development. We held four different meetings for the public stakeholders, including the Continuum of Care (CoC), Coordinated Entry group, and our Housing Authorities, and the feedback from our consultants was good. With the information that we received, we will be able to provide a gap analysis and an Allocation Plan for projects here in Morris County.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports:**

**Funding** – moved to the end of the meeting for closed session voting of GIA and Chapter 51 Funding Priorities

### **Planning**

Ms. Valvano stated that on May 6th Hope Hub hosted a Community Day at Interfaith Food Pantry. Even though it was raining, we had a successful event. We were able to network with providers, and clients could gather clothing and other resources. We plan to partner with The Table of Hope Backpack Drive in late August for a similar event.

Mr. Chernick announced the next Planning Meeting would be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss Overdose Awareness Day.

**Legislative/Advocacy – Mr. Bicknese**

We met earlier today, and there are only three people on this committee. Unfortunately, we need more participants to make this subcommittee work. We are inviting Morris County Prevention is Key to give a presentation on vaping at our next MHASAB meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – no report**

**VII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Deo**

The census at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital is 354 residents, of which 85 are Morris County residents.

Division of Child Protection & Permanency had 148 child protective referrals and 26 child welfare referrals in Morris County.

Dr. Fischer from the Department of Health provided a presentation update on COVID-19.

Our next meeting will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**VIII. Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) Report – submitted before the meeting  
Chair Report**

The various Subcommittees of HSAC were discussed, and members were encouraged to sign up for at least two.

There was a discussion on the 2022-2025 NJ Statewide Prevention Plan (Child abuse Prevention Plan). For more information, see:

[https://nj.gov/dca/library/spotlight/2022-2025\\_NJ\\_Statewide\\_Prevention\\_Plan.pdf](https://nj.gov/dca/library/spotlight/2022-2025_NJ_Statewide_Prevention_Plan.pdf)

**NJDHS**

There was a discussion on the protective status of the Ukrainian individuals arriving in the US.

Under the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), SSI recipients will receive discounted internet service. Recipients of SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, WIC, and Lifeline may also be eligible. See ACP website.

**Division of Developmental Disabilities**

No representation at this meeting again. Ms. Archer requested that someone attend.

**NJ DCF** – DCF provided a handout showing their statistics for the month.

**Staff Report**

Discussion on HOME ARP's next steps.

### **Childcare update**

Morris County did not lose any additional providers this month. The State is again offering incentives to childcare centers and summer camp grants.

### **Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory**

EDGE NJ has a new location in Denville, NJ. The building is where the old SAAB dealership was located.

### **Advisory Committee on Women**

They are still looking for more members for this committee. The focus is on housing and healthcare. Interested members should complete an application –

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Human-Services/Human-Services-Boards-Committees/Advisory-Committee-on-Women>

## **IX. Old Business**

Ms. Archer stated many groups, committees, and providers are discussing that there are individuals who do not need inpatient psychiatric services but need more services than we have available. This was also a topic at the HOME ARP Stakeholders meeting. There is not only a need for housing but additional supportive services.

Ms. Rodriquez announced that the Morris County Prosecutor's Office hosted their first of three CIT classes at the end of April.

Ms. Rodriquez stated she found an old MHASAB Services Directory and asked if a more current one was available. Ms. Archer said we have started to update this pamphlet and will circulate it once completed.

## **X. New Business**

Ms. Brown stated that the EISS Program for Sussex County is slated to be up and running in July. This program will provide urgent care for those with mental illness to have access to treatment while they wait for traditional therapy. MHA has also received \$300,000 through the Federal Funding to provide Suicide Prevention efforts within northern New Jersey. These programs have been running for about two years now, and we've trained over 4,000 individuals in Morris and Sussex County School Districts.

Ms. Suarez announced the next Stigma-Free meeting would be June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm via Zoom with a presentation on Language Matters. Mendham is hosting a Stigma-Free Walk on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month. The proceeds will go towards a yellow picnic table, an initiative through MHA to create a safe space and raise awareness.

Ms. Fodali announced Morris County is opening the Homeless Solutions Overnight Center. This is a pilot emergency shelter for the Spring of 2022. It's a referral-only shelter, and it's open from May 2<sup>nd</sup> until September 5<sup>th</sup>. The referrals are made by the

Office of Temporary Assistance during business hours, Monday through Friday through the Social Services Department and then after hours via NJ-211. In addition to the essential shelter services, the center provides laundry facilities, hot food, snacks, drinks, and bathroom and shower access. Guests can keep their possessions at the center via locked storage spaces.

Ms. Tucker announced she had transferred back to the Mental Health Division within the Prosecutor's Office.

**XI. Funding Closed Session (moved to the end of the meeting) – Review & vote on GIA & Chapter 51 Funding Priorities**

Mr. Chernick asked that anyone in conflict with GIA and Chapter 51 Funding and anyone from the public leave the call. Ms. Eileen Alexander, Ms. Rose Brown, Mr. Carmine Deo, Ms. Maria Fodali, and Ms. Alicia Sharma left the call. Motion made by Mr. Peluso and seconded by Mr. Bicknese to begin the closed session of the meeting. There were four abstentions and no opposition. Motion Carried.

The board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act at 6:10 p.m.

**Return to Meeting**

The meeting reopened at 6:16 p.m. No one reentered the call.

**Actions Resulting from Closed Session**

Mr. Chernick stated the Funding Review Committee met, reviewed, and provided GIA and Chapter 51 Funding Priority recommendations. Let the record reflect that the board voted to approve the requests in the closed session. We need a motion to open a session of the same.

Mr. Ward motioned to approve the recommendations as discussed in the closed session. Ms. Garodnick seconded the motion. All were in favor with four abstentions and no opposition. Motion carried.

**XII. Adjourn**

Ms. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess  
Clerk II